

THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A game adapted to be played on a grass surface, the game comprising:
one or more solid-surface game obstacles structured to cause a game ball to change vertical position relative to a playing field to which the obstacles are attached after said ball has been struck,
wherein at least one of the game obstacles is structured to cause a ball to ~~bank around a corner~~ travel in a helical loop, and the game obstacles are structured to be temporarily affixed to the playing field.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The game of claim 1 wherein at least one obstacle comprises at least two receivers through which at least two securing stakes can be respectively passed.
4. (Original) The game of claim 3, further comprising at least two securing stakes each having a first portion structured to pass through one of the receivers, and each having a second portion structured to mechanically interfere with a portion of one of the receivers to secure the at least one obstacle to the playing field.
5. (Original) The game of claim 4 wherein the stakes are coded to identify a game ball or game player.
6. (Original) The game of claim 3 wherein at least one of the receivers comprises an eyelet.
7. (Original) The game of claim 3 wherein at least one of the receivers comprises a lug.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of playing a yard game, comprising:
selecting a unique game ball;
associating one of a plurality of solid-surfaced game obstacles to the game ball; and
striking the game ball with a mallet to cause it to negotiate the associated obstacle, the
associated obstacle structured to allow lateral movement of a ball while negotiating the
obstacle.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein associating one of the game
obstacles to the game ball comprises attaching a flag to the game obstacle, the flag associated
with the game ball.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the flag is associated with the
game ball by color.

11. (Original) A helical loop yard game obstacle, comprising:
a main surface having a generally helical curved shape; and
first and second raised edges attached to side edges of the main surface.

12. (Original) The obstacle of claim 11 further comprising at least one receiver
coupled to an edge of the obstacle and structured to accept an attaching device therethrough.

13. (Original) The obstacle of claim 12 wherein the attaching device is a stake.

14. (Original) The obstacle of claim 11 wherein the main surface is wider than the
diameter of a game ball.

15. (Original) The obstacle of claim 11 wherein the obstacle has an entry end and an
exit end, the obstacle further comprising a flange coupled to the entry end.

16. (Withdrawn) A curved yard game obstacle having a solid rolling surface,
comprising:

an entry portion adjacent to a playing surface;
an exit portion; and
a curved middle portion between the entry and exit portions.

17. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 16, further comprising an edge attached to an outside radius of the curved middle portion, the edge structured to change direction of a game ball that is negotiating the obstacle.

18. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 16 wherein the middle portion is elevated compared to the entry portion.

19. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 16 wherein an outside radius of the curved middle portion is elevated compared to an inside radius of the curved middle portion.

20. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 16 wherein the exit portion is adjacent to the playing surface.

21. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 16, further comprising at least one receiver coupled to an edge of the obstacle and structured to accept an attaching device therethrough.

22. (Withdrawn) An inclined pipe game obstacle, comprising:
a pipe-shaped main body having an entry end and an exit end, the main body shaped to accommodate a game ball traveling therethrough; and
a rest positioned underneath the main body and between the ends, the rest structured to elevate the exit end of the main body.

23. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 22 wherein the pipe-shaped main body is circular in cross-section.

24. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 22 wherein the pipe-shaped main body is oval in cross section.

25. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 22 further comprising a flange attached to the entry end.

26. (Withdrawn) The obstacle of claim 22 further comprising a clamping device structured to affix the entry end of the main body at a playing surface.

27. (Currently Amended) A croquet obstacle set, comprising:
a first obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to ramp a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the first obstacle;
a second obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the second obstacle to travel in a helical loop;
a third obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball to travel around a banked curve structure ~~bank around a curve a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the third obstacle;~~ and
a fourth obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to ramp through an inclined tunnel a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the fourth obstacle.

28. (Previously Presented) The croquet set of claim 27 wherein at least one of the obstacles structured to be temporarily securable to a playing surface includes a securing device coupled to the at least one obstacle.

29. (Original) The croquet set of claim 28 wherein the securing device is a receiver through which a stake can pass.

30. (Currently Amended) The game of claim 1, wherein at least one of the game obstacles is structured to cause a ball to ~~follow a helical path~~ cause a ball to bank around a corner.